

From: Keith D. Olinger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 10:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I strongly urge the Court and the remaining nine states to accept the settlement reached between Microsoft, the DOJ and nine states. It is long past time to put this very politically motivated piece of our history behind us, and let the economy begin to heal. It is truly a sad time in our history when good American companies are put through this type of punishment for being innovative and relentless in their pursuit of helping the world advance. End this pathetic madness now! As a person that deploys massive numbers of computer desktops, laptops and servers, I can tell you that the benefits of having a common desktop, massive resources for development and deployment, and literally thousands and thousands of applications that work on that platform are a tremendous time and money saver for me.

Take a trip though history to find out why Windows has the largest market share. It is because they provided a great, open operating environment at a reasonable price that runs on commodity hardware, and ironically, opened up the operating system to developers through vehicles like MSDN and developer API's and tools. That is precisely why OS/2 faltered, and the Mac never lived up to its potential. Mac has still not opened up the developers! If Scott McNealy, Larry Ellison and Steve Jobs would spend half of the time they spend bashing Microsoft in developing and marketing their own product line, they would be have much better companies. Have you ever heard these guys?! It is amazing!

Again, I STRONGLY urge you to end this now by accepting the proposed settlement. This suit does not, in any way, reflect on capitalism and a free market society. Actually, it reflects quite the opposite.

Thanks

Keith Olinger